

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 L-03 DODE-00 AGR-20

CU-04 DRC-01 /160 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1671

INFO AMCONSUL CURACAO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR VE

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: DEVELOPMENTS DURING OCTOBER IN VENEZUELA

FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN ARA MONTHLY REPORT ON NARCOTICS
CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS, FOLLOWING ARE SUBMITTED WITH RESPECT
TO VENEZUELA DURING MONTH OF OCTOBER:

A. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VENEZUELAN
INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, DR. CESAR
NARANJO OSTTY, DISCLOSED THAT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ARE
BEING PUT ON DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE
MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING FROM EIGHT TO TWENTY
YEARS' IMPRISONMENT. DR. NARANJO SAID HE EXPECTS THE DRAFT
LEGISLATION TO BE READY BY DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR. CONGRESS
RESUMES ITS SESSIONS IN MARCH 1974.

B. THE INAUGURATION OF FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS
ANTILLES AND VENEZUELA IS PRESENTING ADDITIONAL NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS, SINCE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS ARE BELIEVED
TO BE USING THIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SHIPMENT OF
HARD DRUGS TO VENEZUELA, MUCH OF WHICH IS DESTINED FOR THE U.S.

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C. THE TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ) HAVE CONFIRMED REPORTS OF COCA BUSHES, APPARENTLY GROWING WILD, ON TWO SMALL PLANTATIONS IN WESTERN VENEZUELA.

D. TWO HIGH-RANKING POLICE OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT IN VENEZUELA, INCLUDING THE CHIEF OF THE PTJ'S NARCOTICS DIVISION, RETURNED FROM A 25-DAY EXECUTIVE OBSERVATION VISIT TO VARIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE U.S. ONE OF THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT WAS TO OBSERVE THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS COMBATTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING.

E. REGIONAL DEA DIRECTOR LOUIS BACHRACH VISITED CARACAS TO CONSULT WITH THE AMBASSADOR, DEA OFFICIALS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS CONTROL GROUP. MR. BACHRACH ALSO MET WITH HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE PTJ.

F. TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE DEPARTED FOR 30-DAY VISITS TO THE U.S. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

G. THE USIA FILM "DRUGS - MENACE TO MANKIND" (IN SPANISH) WAS LOANED TO THE COMMISSION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. MCCLINTOCK

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